

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

The proposal for weapon modifications is distasteful aside from one thing. Electronic devices where yardage is automatically captured and calculated should be illegal. Making a compound bow, for my first disagreement, doesn't prohibit sportsmanship for its use. It does not provide an "edge" to the hunter. The devices that can be attached does pose an advantage. I think restraints on weapon attachments is a positive, the proposal for banning the weapon itself is absurd.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Elk populations do need to be more robust, doing it in such a fashion that makes it easier for the highest bidder or outfitter is against all things known for original conservation instated by Roosevelt. Please do not deviate from what the vision was.

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

E-bikes need to be regulated to certain areas.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** I strongly agree with more opportunities for youth and family traditional hunting. I also agree with the limited entry season date changes. This year I witnessed a lot of upper age class bulls being killed with rifles before the rut had even started. That being said we can't manage for both more opportunities and better quality with out changing more. With more opportunities to hunt open bull units we should look at shutting spike hunts down in our top units or rotating those units every few years. We are killing bulls as spikes that 5 years from now we could be getting the top tier point holders more opportunities. We are one of the few states that even hunt spikes. Arizona has the best balance of quality and opportunity. They don't hunt spikes, they very rarely hunt elk with rifles in September. One other thing they do that I think we should look at is alternating rifle and muzzleloader dates and years like they do.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** With the addition to the mid season rifle hunts and the late archery on our top tier units we really need to shut down spike hunting. This would add more hunter opportunities in 5 years.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** Thank you for continuing to look at emerging technologies. This is how we can increase hunter opportunities. Many of these things still come down to ethics and not expanding beyond someone's ethical ability.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

Dear members-- following my review of the recommendations from the Technology Committee, I would like to provide my comment. First of all- I applaud the board and all involved for their efforts. I understand this is a contentious topic at large and many have concerns.

I would urge the board and all involved to take steps toward limiting the "unrestricted" weapons types where the bulk of the permits are allocated in our beloved state. Specifically-- allowing magnifying optics, or any optics on muzzloaders. I see no valid biological, or social argument for the continuation of this practice. The negative consequences are many- there could be more tags allocated and retain the same harvest for herd management objectives. Please consider this, and I appreciate your service.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 25, 2022 9:12 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** I don't understand if these weapons limitations are for all hunts or just specific hunts.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

FINALLY!!!!

Recognition of a common sense approach to elk management in the state that resembles the many surrounding states very successful elk management plans. This allows for increased opportunity, reduced crowding on general tags, while also maintaining quality in limited units while increasing tags thru better use of rifle hunt dates outside the rut. Now we get to see how bad the wildlife board can screw this up with their fly by the seat of their pants approach that frequently throws out the recommendations of wildlife professionals and all the factual data that backs it up and replace it with their own ideas and agendas backed by no factual data. Fingers crossed though!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

We had a 400 class bull elk unit on the Central Manti 10 yrs ago and then you added the two rifle hunts to add up to five different hunts on the limited entry, that crippled our chances at trophy elk. I have hunted the same area, canyons and drainages for 27 yrs and have witnessed what money and greed has done to my area. You are lucky to find a 350 class bull now after you wait 15 yrs. to draw the tag, that's pathetic and now you propose changing this to an open bull unit draw due to mis-managing the unit for years( so since the damage is done and it will take years to recoup, you decide to just capitalize on the extra money while you can?) Stop using the "Family and Opportunities to All" excuse to ruin what so many before your time worked so hard to build and just come out and admit it's all about the money! Last year was one of the worst years for weather I have witnessed for years and I ran into three hunters out of the nine days I hunted, any other fair to good season I see twenty plus people. The point is how many tags go to true hunters and how many are the fair weather road hunters? I really hope the appropriate time is taken to make logical decisions on these topics. Remember "every action has a consequence, good or bad!" Thank you.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** Great Job!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?** Great Job!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Great Job!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

YES! Finally, thank God. Enough with the long-range target shooters shooting the █████ out of the animals at long range. Make people learn how to hunt and put the hunt back in hunting. Will I have to make some adjustments to my equipment? yes. And I am 100% ok with this.

Good job on this. I mean seriously, it's about time someone stepped up and did something because I am soooooo sick of seeing 10-year-old kids lobbing bullets at 1200 yards with gunwerks rifles and posting the videos to YouTube. It's a terrible image for hunters and in my opinion is terribly unethical.

As a hunter of 38 years, I truly appreciate you folks moving in this direction.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

This is a terrible plan based on managing money NOT on managing elk. I have waited over 20+ years for the opportunity to hunt a trophy bull elk in the state of Utah. This plan will not distribute hunters more evenly allowing for a better hunting experience it will only increase the urgency for the hunter to be successful in a shorter amount of time. We have already watched the rut change because of weather patterns especially drought now I am being asked to bet on when the rut will happen in even a shorter window of time. We hunted for a week this year on the archery elk any bull hunt, we saw two cow elk in that time. We hiked for over 80 miles saw over 100 hunters with 0 bull elk in any camp. I would gladly pay more to hunt in a trophy elk unit and have a better experience. I personally don't care how many new "hunters" have come into the field. We have a points system that rewards patience as it should. Don't give out more tags, don't put more pressure on an already limited resource, don't increase the length of an already too long elk hunting season, and especially DONT break the limited entry hunt into two 7 day hunting seasons. If the proposed changes are made I will take my hunting dollars elsewhere.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** In respect to Utah's Elk management, please focus more on quality vs opportunity. as for my family and our friends, we really only care about shooting big Bull Elk, not the chance to get out in the field and shoot a mediocre Bull Elk. We would much rather have less hunting opportunities and more quality animals on the landscape.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Really appreciate the two seasons!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** Thanks for looking into all of these tough issues, please be on the side of the ethical sportsman, we want to kill animals in a fair and ethical way.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** I would like to quote Aldo Leopold on this one, he says it all.  
"Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest." - Aldo Leopold

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 26, 2022 8:43 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

Highly oppose banning scopes on muzzleloaders. This will just lead to more wounded animals due to poor shot placement. The average public land hunter has been restricted enough.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

We can have the best of both worlds with trophy potential and opportunity to hunt if we just make it harder to actually kill/harvest. If there is going to be a rifle elk hunt right in the middle of the rut the rifle should at least be restricted under the new guidelines so people aren't slaughtering everything within 1000 yards. Make it somewhat fair on the elk, if we are going to be the rifle hunting state at least make it so people still have to hunt the elk and get within 300 yards and not just be the long range slaughterhouse. Overall I'm pleased with the plan and the increased opportunity to go out and hunt with the new general units. I would also suggest the hams hunts should be exempted from the waiting period or be more like a general hunt with limited permits due to the difficulty of weapon and season. People won't want to burn points then have to wait 5 years just to hunt broken antlered bulls in 2 feet of snow, it should be more of an opportunity hunt you could do every 2,3,4 years since the harvest won't be very high you can let quite a few people get out and hunt without killing too many elk.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

eliminating the use of a rifle with a scope and the elimination of compound bows will cripple the revenue flow to the division, the restriction on muzzle loaders is acceptable as is the restrictions on HAMS. The proposed changes have obviously been presented by and too no one under the age of 55. the "back in my day" hunter who know just sits back in camp or just road hunts. if the rifle and the archery limitations pass I personally will no longer hunt in Utah and Ive hunted here my entire life.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 26, 2022 9:33 am

**Which best describes your position**      Somewhat disagree  
**regarding the proposed statewide elk**  
**management plan?**

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I can understand and completely appreciate the thought and concern that has gone into this updated management plan. I, for one, am all for increase quality opportunities to hunt elk. Any time I can turn to my home state of Utah for an elk hunt instead of immediately looking out of state at Colorado or Idaho for better opportunities, it's a win as far as I'm concerned.

However, I do have some concerns with the long term viability of a few points of the plan as outlined in the presentation. Isn't the plan fairly short-sighted? The immediate effects of lowering age class objectives will obviously lead to an increase of "available harvestable animals" in the immediate future. For example, in a unit such as the Pahvant or San Juan, which currently has an age objective of 7.5-8 years old, the goal is outlined as recommended to reduce the age objective by roughly 1 full year. In over simplified terms, this means that in year one, two age classes of bulls would get killed: those that are currently 7.5-8 years old, and those that are currently 6.5-7 years old (which were being raised and "saved" for next year to be 7.5-8 year old harvest crop until these changes were proposed).

So, for 2023 (assuming this passes), for argument's sake, let's say there were 100 7.5-8 year old bulls available for harvest for this year, and 100 bulls that are currently 6.5-7 years old that were being held in reserve to be next years "top dogs." So, in over simplified terms, we will harvest 2 calf crops in one season. All that's occurred is we've moved what was going to be next year's harvest, to this year. And moved the 2024 harvest of bulls (which are currently 5.5-6 years old) to 2023, and so on.

This will, in turn, create a surplus of cows on the landscape. Thus, the Division will have to increase cow harvest as well to bring the population back into equilibrium.

Which will in turn reduce the available calf crop starting the 2nd season after these changes are implemented.

Which will then reduce the number of 6.5-7 year old bulls available on the landscape, and all we've done is reduce the number of bulls available while simultaneously decreasing the quality of the bulls available to harvest.

Again, I'm no biologist, and I don't envy the position the Division is in. But to me, these aspects of the plan just don't quite line up. I'm not great at articulating this through writing though, so please feel free to reach out if there's any questions on my position.

I'm just a lowly hunter, but I spend lots of days in field hunting both Utah as well as Colorado. I don't have any scientific experience and I have no formal training. But I'm passionate about our hunting heritage, and agree something needs to be done to reduce the effects of point creep, without compromising opportunities or hunt qualities.

Thank you for your thoughtful research, but these are the shortcomings I

see as just a "regular Joe." Again, please reach out to discuss. My goal is not to belittle or bemoan. On the contrary, I would like to contribute to and be part of the solution in any way I can.

Thank you,  
Jade Gillman  
435-214-8193

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I agree with most things presented, I defiantly want opportunities especially for youth hunters, but want quality elk as well. I also like the idea of spreading hunters and pressure out by giving some different hunts opportunities within units.

I have some concerns about elk herds and populations on the general units. I think I would rather see a limited number of elk tags on the late general season elk hunt. If a number is set and needs to be increased that can be done, it would be difficult to go from unlimited to setting a number. The concern is what if 40-50,000 people go on this hunt. If 15,000 is the number expected why not set that limit. I also have some concerns on how the process of getting permits for the early general elk hunt. Fighting online to try to buy a tag is a little ridiculous, I think a draw and a points system similar to deer hunting would be better for the early season general elk tags.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

I agree with the hunting dates, but have a recommendation:

Because of the increase in complication and because of the influx of new hunters I would recommend a course that needs to be completed by the hunter before they receive their tag. I have continued to see hunters in the wrong area, not understanding boundaries (archery people hunting the extended on the Wasatch Limited entry), hunting with the incorrect equipment, safety (orange on rifle hunts), and generally not being courteous hunters (shooting from 1000 yards over our heads during a late season cow hunt).

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I agree with the statement, that represents what should be considered as technologies advance.

I would like to see more educational opportunities for hunters, especially newer hunters. It seems like as advancements happen hunters have changed (especially new hunter) what they consider ethical hunting. I think it would be very beneficial to recommend what ethical shot placement is for each species and ethical shot distances are for each type of equipment.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 26, 2022 10:16 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

First, the elk hunt seasons this year have been more crowded than I have ever seen before. I had an archery permit, and I believe the larger crowds were due to the multi season permits. When I joined my brother on his any legal weapon hunt, it was more crowded than ever before. I noticed a proposal to limit the number of multi season permits, but I would love to see the multi season permits completely done away with. I also read that either sex elk on the archery hunt will no longer be an option. That part really upsets me. I feel if we limited the number of archery hunters with the end of the multi season permits, the elk herds won't be effected by either sex hunting during the archery hunt. Still have unlimited permits for archery, but do away with the multi season permits.

Second, as part of the overcrowding issues, I would love to see the muzzleloader weapons return to the use of open sights or 1x power scopes only. The technological advancements with powders, bullets, and optics, make a muzzleloader too similar to a high power rifle. I would love it to be more primitive. This would also help with overcrowding. I feel like both of these solutions would help manage the elk population and the amount of hunters afield during each hunt.

Thank you for your time and service you give to the state.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 26, 2022 2:43 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

I really like the idea of adding the late archery hunt as a way to help eliminate point creep, I like the dates that have been presented for all hunts, I would like to see the early rifle moved out of September. There's no need to hunt rutting bulls with a rifle when they are at their most distracted time of the year.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

I pretty much agree with most of the proposal.

-I would like to see Spike archery hunters have to start on Aug. 23rd the same day LE archery bull hunters start. It seems pretty unfair to let spike hunters pressure the elk herds for 4 days before a guy that waited years to draw his limited entry tag.

-I would also recommend only allowing multi season general bull hunters to be able to hunt the late season I think that would help with crowding issues on the early hunt and give the guys a little better hunt that only purchase a the rifle only tag.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Neither agree nor disagree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 26, 2022 6:00 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

What happens to the guys that have been waiting 25 years to draw a tag? We waited all this time only to get screwed out of the hunt we have been waiting for. Time, age class and limited hunters on our unit is why we have waited so we are not hunting with 600+ others like other units.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I see that the management for Tags and making more people able to be in the mountains hunting, what I don't see is how you're going to make the herds stronger, I have hunted Utah for 30+ years and I have seen a dramatic decrease in the elk numbers across the state. we don't need more tags we need to make the general season elk a draw like the deer tags making smaller units is a good idea and will spread people out. but unlimited tags VERY BAD IDEA!!!! strongly disagree and I have been waiting to get a limited elk tag for 18+ years I see this as a slap in the face. it seems like this is just about the money and not the animals

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

well 4 days for a limited entree tag, for something that has taken 20+ years to draw this is a slap in the face

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

I see that the management for Tags and making more people able to be in the mountains hunting, what I don't see is how you're going to make the herds stronger, I have hunted Utah for 30+ years and I have seen a dramatic decrease in the elk numbers across the state. we don't need more tags we need to make the general season elk a draw like the deer tags making smaller units is a good idea and will spread people out. but unlimited tags VERY BAD IDEA!!!! strongly disagree and I have been waiting to get a limited elk tag for 18+ years I see this as a slap in the face. it seems like this is just about the money and not the animals  
the CWMU are impossible to get a hold of the managers so even if you draw the tag you cant hunt because they wont respond and well it seems like they do a better job at managing the herd better then the state can

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 27, 2022 9:17 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

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Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I feel as if adding more general season elk hunting units will put more pressure on the already struggling elk herds in these areas, as well as interfere with the mule deer hunting. It will have a negative affect on all hunting opportunities in those areas.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

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Neither agree nor disagree

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I really like the proposed changes for Utah elk hunting and the direction the division is going with this. But as a die hard general season elk hunter in Utah I do not agree with the 2 separate general elk rifle seasons. I get the reasons why but you are taking a already very low success and low quality , crowded hunt and making it horrible for the proposed "late general elk season hunters " . I think increasing the quota and capping it at a specific Number of general elk tags would be a far better way of doing it then making the late general elk season unlimited OTC.

OR setting a certain date for people to buy there general season elk license . EXAMPLE July 5th-6th you can buy a general elk tag, no cap or set number, as many as you can sell . But after July 6th you no longer can buy a general season or muliti general elk license for that year. (Archery could still be unlimited and bought at any time during season like it is now). The muliti season elk tag being capped at 7,500 is a good idea but it will make things even worse for getting tag on sell day for the hunters that get that tag every year since it first opened. Backed up Online sells and lines outside every license vendor in the state . I believe moving the multi season general elk to a draw would be better. If you don't draw you gain a point and still would be able to purchase a normal general season elk license or general elk archery.

Or moving general Multi season elk to a "grantee draw" and doubling or tripling the price of the tag . Example you apply for the General multi season elk license and you are granteed the tag , but you pay double or triple the price to regulate the people who really want it and the ones who don't . (Or keep it the same price) . But the Multi season would not be sold OTC or online. Only by Applying during the big game application period. It would be separate from limited entry elk.

Or just plan get rid of the muliti season general elk tag and just increase the "general tags".

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I don't like taking away the opportunity for the general season spike/anybull hunters choice for archery hunters. Those hunts have a relatively low success rate and by taking the hunter choice aspect away, it will decrease the success rates even more.

I understand the thought is to have antlerless tags available at the same time for those units but I'm guessing that those will take all of your antlerless points that you have built up for other weapons/areas. If we could solve for the points not being used or a separate point system for the new proposed antlerless hunts then I would be fine with paying more if you could get those tags on a very frequent basis.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?**

I am glad there are changes being looked at because of the increasing amount of people that are in the field. I am a little on the disagreement side of the archery hunt being bull only. Are archery hunters taking that many cows off the landscape? Archery hunters already have the lowest success rates and this will make it that much harder. It has been nice to have that choice. If units will not carry archery cow elk permits, will rifle cow elk permits still be given out? If there are not cow tags given out on the archery hunts there should be no rifle cow elk tags available as well. Just my two cents. Thanks.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** The rifle general season plan is great  
Giving up either sex in archery is hard but will be tolerable if decent number of archery cow tags are given.  
Strongly against a spring cow elk hunt. We can't push elk looking for antlers but now you want to hunt them? Also seeing a fully formed calf while gutting an elk is a major turn off to new hunters and the public in general.  
Limited entry is a fair compromise

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?** Glad to see sheep expanding.  
Bison crowding on the book cliffs is an issue. The archery only hunt should be moved later.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** Please Focus on things you can actually enforce. Outlawing cell phones and radios would only prove to be a safety issue for law keeping systems.  
Primitive weapon hunts are a good idea to address point creep but choose your season date carefully

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** we need to end the archery elk  
Before the youth hunt they can  
Hunt archery every year this is a once in a lifetime from for kids  
And cap the first elk at 10.000  
And limit bow hunt we have to many out state hunter i do archery hunt

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?** We need to end the archery elk  
Before the youth hunt

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I like a lot of the adjustments in the plan. Lowering the age objective makes me think we will lose quality but I also want to be able to have more opportunity to hunt LE units over my and my kids lifetime, and this change will accomplish that. I agree with opening the new any bull units and changing the any bull and spike archery tags to bull only instead of hunters choice.

My biggest concern is the unlimited Any Bull tags for the new rifle hunt. I do not think this is a good idea. This hunt needs to have a cap on hunters like the rest of them. My thoughts are 10,000 for the first rifle season and 10,000 for the second.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I disagree with the formation of this committee. I think what has been legal should continue to be legal including TRAIL CAMERAS DURING SEASON. Trail cams are a tool to help hunters know what's in the area. It does not directly aid in harvesting a specific animal unless it has cell technology. (those should be illegal during hunts).

I do not think we need further restrictions on scopes, rangefinders, etc.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2022 11:35 am

**Which best describes your position** Strongly agree  
**regarding the proposed statewide elk**  
**management plan?**

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I agree with all of the proposed Changes presented for the new 10 year elk management program and believe the management plan is moving in the right direction. I also have a suggestion that I believe integrates perfectly with the forward thinking goals of this plan, which is to open new opportunity's and/or incentives specifically for Traditional Archery. I believe this is something that address the key theme of the management plan which is to "increase opportunity and maintain quality by increasing challenge". I have listed a few of the main reasons why I believe this is something that will benefit all hunters and be powerful tool for conservation long into the future:

1. Benefits all hunters: This is something that will also benefit hunters who have no interest in hunting with traditional archery equipment. This would be a new hunting category so as hunters fill the new traditional archery category it will relieve some pressure from other categories. The vast majority of hunters that migrate into the traditional archery category are not going to be new hunters, but experienced hunters seeking challenge or the incentives associated with the traditional archery opportunities. I have heard many times that 5% of hunters account for 90% of the harvest success. It is very likely that it would be the highly successful hunters that would have the desire to migrate to a traditional archery category seeking increased opportunities etc. A hunt like this could also be structured and incentivized to specifically draw highly successful hunters. This could possibly help reduce the overall harvest which would increase quality for hunters across all categories.

2. Increase hunter opportunity: This new management plan made it clear that the only way to increase opportunity without destroying quality is to increase difficulty. Introducing Traditional Archery specific opportunities would be opening the door to the most challenging option available, which means it would be opening the largest single door for increasing hunter opportunity. Traditional archery being single string, no cam bows with no sights or mechanical releases etc. The efficacy gap between traditional archery and modern compound bows, I would argue, is similar to the efficacy gap between rifle and compound bow. The technology involved with compound bows has increased dramatically and compound bows are becoming very effective weapons. I am more confident hunting with a compound bow than I am hunting with an open-sight muzzleloader. The effectiveness of compound bows will continue to increase and archers will continue to grow more proficient with these weapons. Even without diligent practice most archers can be lethal out to 60 yards with a compound bow. Those who practice diligently can be accurate to further distances. For Traditional archery, typical lethal ranges are going to be sub 30 yards for skilled archers. The difficulty in limiting all shot opportunities to sub 30 yards is an undertaking. Although the success rates for traditional archery only opportunities would be very low, right now there seems to be an increasing number of hunters interested in traditional archery, seeking increased challenge. The current opportunities for archery are the main tool to supply the most room for opportunity. This is an addition that creates more opportunity for all without removing or limiting any other opportunities.

a. A few examples of how a traditional archery category could increase opportunities:

i. Extended season dates - Those willing to accept the challenge could be given extra days before and after standard archery season dates to create extra incentive

ii. Additional season dates at desirable hunting times

iii. Increased draw odds for limited entry hunts

iv. Removal of 5 year waiting period to apply after drawing a limited entry tag

3. Places incentivized value on traditional hunting heritage and skills:

Hunting with traditional equipment requires more from the hunter and this is something that will be hugely beneficial to conservation in the long term.

Hunters seeking to find success in this category will naturally find that it is absolutely essential to develop a deeper more intimate understanding of the animals and habitats that they are hunting as well as diligent practice with the weapon. Of course this is required of all hunters regardless of weapon type to varying degrees but in general I think we all agree that with less effective weapons hunters must be more proficient and committed in all areas to find success. I have hunted with a compound bow for two decades and can personally attest that switching from a compound bow to traditional archery forced me to learn more in one year hunting than I did in 10 years hunting with a compound bow. There are skills that are being lost among hunters as we rely more and more heavily on technology and this is the type of traditional weapon hunt that will help preserve those skills.

Technology will only continue to increase and there will be less and less need for hunters to rely on skills and knowledge. There are hunters that are eager to put forth greater effort and commitment into preserving human hunting heritage, knowledge and skills and this would be an excellent way to encourage that type of commitment. The preservation of traditional hunting skills and knowledge will be long term byproduct of creating and incentivizing a new high difficulty category specifically catered to traditional archery.

4. Desirable public perception. The more I think about the future of hunting and coacervation for my kids and future generations, the more I realize how important the opinion and support of the non-hunting public is. It is perhaps even mor important that the opinion of hunters, who are a shrinking minority. It has been my personal experience that the general public has a favorable outlook on traditional archery hunting over any other type. It seems easier for people to accept hunting as a means of preserving our human heritage when they see hunters using a weapon that is similar to what humans have been using as the primary hunting tool for longest period of time throughout human history. Most non-hunting individuals will recognize the image of a traditional bow and accept it as an important part of human history. Even individuals that I have talked to who are anti-hunting are much more tolerant of the idea of a hunter pursuing game with a traditional bow. I believe The emphasis on using traditional archery equipment to help preserve our ancient hunting heritage could be a huge PR boost that could help improve optics and draw conservation support

from the non-hunting public. Something like this would be very effective to serve as the "face" of PR efforts for all hunters. It is the way our ancestors have been hunting for thousands of years on almost every continent in the world. It is likely that everyone alive today has ancestors who have a rich history involving some form of traditional archery equipment. It is a critical part of human history that has value in being preserved for both hunters and non-hunters alike.

In summary, I believe this could be a desirable option that gives hunters exactly what they want: Increased opportunity across the board, without damaging quality across the board. On a broader scale I believe traditional archery focused opportunities can also be a powerful long term focus that non-hunters might support which will serve as a powerful protection for the rights of all hunters.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I strongly appose changing the general archery tag to a bull only tag. This hunt is already very difficult with very low hunter success. Removing the antlerless option makes this permit useless to me and many other nonresidents paying a large amount of money for near zero hunt odds. I will no longer spend my money in Utah on this tag if this change is implemented. It will be a huge revenue loss to the state.

The muzzleloader restrictions go too far. Modern muzzleloaders should still be allowed incl the use of 209 primers. Elimination of scopes would be sufficient to significantly reduce hunter shooting distance and hunter success.

Archery equipment is already difficult to use and should not be further restricted to primitive style bows only. This is unnecessary and eliminates almost all archery hunters.

The general any bull any legal weapon hunts are already over hunter and I strongly oppose splitting the season into two heavily hunted seasons. This will further degrade a hunt that is already low quality and low success. The increased demand is due to multi season tags which should be eliminated to reduce hunter numbers and overcrowding. Having 15k tags over a short period of 7 days will be a horrible hunting experience and not worth purchasing for nonresident high prices. An unlimited late season is a terrible idea and is just a money maker with no regard to elk hunting quality and experience. This will result in extremely low hunter success and extremely low hunter satisfaction.

5 days is too short for a limited entry early rifle elk tag. These are pretty much once in a lifetime tags and the committee is trying to make them much less enjoyable and successful.

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I agree that no additional technology restrictions are needed.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

Things I like:

- Additional General Any Bull Units
- Lowered Age Class Objectives
- Later LE Archery Dates
- Shortened Early LE Rifle
- Strategic Antlerless Hunts (I like the idea mentioned of varied season dates year to year to keep the herds guessing, would like to see with any-bull and spike seasons as well.)
- Diamond Mtn Spike Hunt (I have hunted the any-bull unit very close to the Diamond Mtn unit my entire life and have noticed that as the archery hunt got more popular and pressure increased, the elk began to migrate over to the LE unit 2 weeks before the archery hunt opened. This spike hunt should help to redistribute the herds back and forth better.)

Things I Do Not Like:

- Need better strategies for hunter distribution (Why not split the general archery into 2 seasons just as with the rifle to try and spread us out a bit.)
  - Spike Hunt (Why not control bull to cow ratios by allowing hunters to kill more bulls, no more spike hunt!)
-

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I don't like the allocation of the limited elk tags. I believe the muzzleloader and early rifle is way to low. The mid season rifle is way to high. Early rifle should be 20 percent, muzzleloader 20 percent, archery 25 percent , mid rifle 15 percent, late season rifle 15 and multi season 5. Also the general bill should be a draw. It is unfair to the hunter and the elk to have it unlimited and over the counter. They will be gone in the first 20 minutes.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** Finally an effort to make LE bull hunting more of a hunt and stop squandering so many bulls. Thank you!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** I am not sure of the purpose of the restricted weapons definitions. If these are just for HAMS hunts, then fine. If for other hunts, I am completely opposed.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** I am opposed to one square inch of public land being included in any CWMU.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

Something I have not seen discussed. But Something I think would be great to implement for our residents who are past their prime. (I'm 33, so this is not self serving). I would love to see LE and once in a life time tags have a Seniors program. I know and have talked to many hunters who have 20+ points for a tag and still no drawing in sight. These men and women are reaching an age where hunting is becoming less possible for them. And it's heartbreaking.

I would love to see a Senior program that would allow a certain amount of tags for specific units, or maybe even 20% of available tags in each unit be dedicated to Residents only who are 60+ yrs old.

Why not give them a better chance at one last chance for a hunt of a lifetime.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?**

for the most part im not really impressed but when they discuss and recommend making the Oquirrh and Stansbury unit a open bull. this is so wrong in so many ways its hard to discuss. this was recommended the last go round and thankfully voted down. to do this simply to more areas for the open area bull hunters is absurd the units work great as a spike hunt area and know there has been a HAMS hunted added giving more opportunity to hunters it has been quoted by some as a unit that does not produce trophy qualify animals which is totally false i had the chance to hunt during the hams hunt in 2021 and though it was a hard hunt i harvested a 340 plus bull and passed on alot of bulls. we had my permit a friend and some one we decided to help out all three of us harvested with two of the bulls scoring high enough for the muzzle loader records. there were 5 bulls harvested out of 10 permits but being a restricted weapons hunt 50 percent is not bad at all. and this year it success was even better. making it a open bull area with unlimited permits even if just you would sadly almost surely destroy this hunting unit at least for elk which no one wants this unit contain alot more elk than one thinks but there are so many hidden areas that just disappear in with majority of the mature bulls going into the kennecott property the cow herd winters in settlement canyon, silcox and stockton canyon last winter cow herd for this area was counted at over 300 animals. this herd needs a chanch to recover from being severly over hunted in the nineties through 2010. it is rebuilding slowly but it is recovering. to do this to this unit would sadly but surely ruin it there is just to much private and not enough public which could lead to a law enforcement nightmare.

**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 30, 2022 8:02 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I think if this elk management plan goes through, all the elk, which are seldom seen on the general season units anyway, will be pushed farther onto private lands or CWMU units to the point where the harvest success rate will be close to 0%. Not to mention that if the elk are found in the late season, or either season for that matter, it could wipe out an entire elk population within a couple years. What needs to happen is it needs to be put into a draw system like the deer. I know we are one of the last states to offer over the counter elk tags, but there are too many hunters for that to happen and to have a good chance of success. I know the Division is concerned about it being more about a family outing than hunting, but if families want to have a trip, they should just go camping. The hunters and the people who take it seriously are not pleased with this proposal and believe very whole heartedly that it could decimate the elk population. And to be completely frank, all this shows the general public is that the division only cares about money and how many tags they could sell and how much profit they can make. I urge the wildlife board to reconsider this proposal because this will be disastrous to the thousands of Utah's that hunt and, more importantly, it will be disastrous to the elk herds and their numbers.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

We have worked so hard for years to get the quality of the elk herd in the state to where it is at and we are now going to decimate that by making most of the spike units, any bull units? I am old enough to remember when we removed the 3 point or better units for deer in the 80s and watched the quality of deer statewide plummet. The reason for the increased popularity in elk is because of the success with the spike units and LE hunts. Please don't make the whole state like the joke that is the north slope of the unitas now. Heck, even release more spike permits if you need to, but don't make them any bull units.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?**

Why not let me apply for multiple LE hunts. Some people don't want to chase sheep, or moose, or whatever animal. It is only a \$10 application fee. Let me apply for as many as I want, not just chase moose for 26 years and start over with sheep or goat when/if I draw a moose. And it's not a money thing. If the \$10 application fee is too much per animal, people can't afford the bullet for their gun.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Leave the LE rifle elk hunt over the rut. Archery hunters waste more meat than any other hunter so allowing them more of the rut to archery hunt and waste meat makes no sense. And, the LE Rifle is the premium of the hunt, it should have the key dates.

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I 100% supported the ban of trail cameras during the season as was passed last year. I thought it was actually well thoughtout and beneficial to the wildlife. I do think we need more restrictions on electronics in the field. More people are taking shots with which they aren't qualified to do because of their 'reliance' on technology. Further restricting this technology would limit more of these shots taking place and less wounded animals as well as putting the 'hunt' back in hunting.

**Which best describes your position  
regarding the CWMU and LOA  
recommendations?**

Neither agree nor disagree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 31, 2022 3:30 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I would prefer to move into an opportunity state. Being newly married, I rely heavily on elk meat. I would still like to see antlerless harvest on the archery permits. That's my #1 concern. I backpack hunt and rarely run into crowding. I think the multiseason tag is the best idea yet. I feel it reduces pressure. I typically spend about 31 days in the field per year for big game hunts. If it's bull only tags for archery, I'd HOPE to see antlerless etc.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 31, 2022 7:22 pm

**Which best describes your position**      Somewhat agree  
**regarding the proposed statewide elk**  
**management plan?**

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I appreciate the Elk Committee and DWR's efforts in revising the elk plan. It is no small undertaking and is a thankless job. Thank you for your work!

I have made a few suggestions in order to more closely follow the goals of the elk committee and DWR of providing more opportunity for elk hunting while maintaining quality hunting opportunities. I suggest the following:

- Alternate opening hunt dates of the mid-season elk tag and general spike tags. Delay the start of the general season ALW spike hunt by one week to give mid-season hunters an opportunity at a quality experience without several hundred to a thousand individuals chasing and pressuring the same species on the mountain. The general spike hunters would still be allowed two weeks, but would overlap the general deer on the second week and the mid-season limited entry bull on the first week.
  - If the goal is to lower success rates and increase opportunities, then one option is to give more limited entry mid tags and delay spike elk hunters one week. This would maintain quality experience and increase pressure and decrease success.
  - Depending on which studies you read, a significant percentage of elk breed the first week to week and a half of October. Maintaining a sanctuary time period would be paramount in my mind to allow for the reproduction of elk without so much pressure.
  - Delay general ALW any bull elk tags one week to start close to Oct. 15. You can then give out a few limited entry tags on general units the week of Oct. 7 on general units.
  - Create a separate pool of tags for general season any bull elk hunters. It's late season so the logic applied to the unlimited rifle tags should apply to the general season muzzleloader any bull season.
  - put a quota on non-resident general elk tags through a draw
-

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** I agree with adding the Deep Creeks, Valley Mountain, and the Paunsagaunt any bull units, but I completely disagree with giving land owners on Moroni Hills there own hunting preserve. This unit would be 95% private land, and they are not sportsmen friendly.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** My biggest complaint is a scope on muzzleloaders. I know a few people the last couple years that was shooting 600 plus yards at animals and wounding them. You wouldn't take those shots if you couldn't see them in a peep sight.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 31, 2022 10:23 pm

**Which best describes your position** Strongly agree  
**regarding the Technology Committee's**  
**recommendations?**

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I believe specifically introducing traditional archery into Utah's management plan is the single best move that could be made to benefit all hunters. I believe this is something that addresses the key theme of the management plan which is to "increase opportunity and maintain quality by increasing challenge". This would be something that can apply to all managed game species. I have listed a few of the main reasons why I believe this is something that will benefit all hunters and be powerful tool for conservation long into the future:

Benefits all hunters: This is something that will benefit hunters who have no interest in hunting with traditional archery equipment. This would be a new hunting category. As hunters fill the new traditional archery category it will relieve some pressure from other categories. The vast majority of hunters that migrate into the traditional archery category are not going to be new hunters, but experienced hunters seeking challenge or the incentives associated with the traditional archery opportunities. I have heard many times that 5% of hunters account for 90% of the harvest success. It is very likely that it would be the highly successful hunters that would have the desire to migrate to a traditional archery category seeking increased opportunities etc. A hunt like this could also be structured and incentivized to specifically draw highly successful hunters. This could possibly help reduce the overall harvest which would increase quality for hunters across all categories.

Increase hunter opportunity: The new Utah DWR proposed 10 year management plan made it clear that the only way to increase opportunity without destroying quality is to increase difficulty. Introducing Traditional Archery specific opportunities would be opening the door to the most challenging option available, which means it would be opening the largest single door for increasing hunter opportunity. Traditional archery being single string, no cam bows with no sights or mechanical releases etc. The efficacy gap between traditional archery and modern compound bows, I would argue, is similar to the efficacy gap between rifle and compound bow. The majority of hunting that I do is with a compound bow and its no secret that the technology involved with compound bows has increased dramatically and compound bows are becoming very effective weapons. I am more confident hunting with a compound bow than I am hunting with an open-sight muzzleloader. The effectiveness of compound bows will continue to increase and archers will continue to grow more proficient with these weapons. Even without diligent practice most archers can be lethal out to 60 yards with a compound bow. Those who practice diligently can be accurate to further distances. For Traditional archery, typical lethal ranges are going to be sub 30 yards even for very skilled archers. The difficulty in limiting all shot opportunities to sub 30 yards is an undertaking. Although the success rates for traditional archery only opportunities would be very low, right now there seems to be an increasing number of hunters interested in traditional archery, seeking increased challenge. The current opportunities for archery are the main tool to supply the most room for opportunity. This is an addition that creates more opportunity for all without removing or limiting any other opportunities.

A few examples of how a traditional archery category could increase

opportunities:

- i. Extended season dates (extra days before and/or after standard archery dates)
- ii. Additional season dates at desirable hunting times
- iii. Increased draw odds for limited entry hunts
- iv. Removal of 5 year waiting period to apply after drawing a limited entry tag

Places incentivized value on traditional hunting heritage and skills: Hunting with traditional equipment requires more from the hunter and this is something that will be hugely beneficial to conservation in the long term. Hunters seeking to find success in this category will naturally find that it is absolutely essential to develop a deeper, more intimate understanding of the animals and habitats that they are hunting as well as diligent practice with the weapon. Of course this is required of all hunters regardless of weapon type to varying degrees but in general I think we all agree that with less effective weapons hunters must be more proficient and committed in all areas to find success. I have hunted with a compound bow for two decades and can personally attest that switching from a compound bow to traditional archery forced me to learn more in one year hunting than I did in 10 years hunting with a compound bow. There are skills that are being lost among hunters as we rely more and more heavily on technology and this type of traditional weapon hunt could help preserve those skills.

Technology will only continue to increase and there will be less and less need for hunters to rely on skills and knowledge. There are hunters that are eager to put forth greater effort and commitment into preserving human hunting heritage, knowledge and skills and this would be an excellent way to encourage that type of commitment. The preservation of traditional hunting skills and knowledge will be a long term byproduct of creating and incentivizing a new high difficulty category specifically catered to traditional archery.

Desirable public perception. The more I think about the future of hunting and conservation for my kids and future generations, the more I realize how important the opinion and support of the non-hunting public is. It is perhaps even more important that the opinion of hunters, who are a shrinking minority. It has been my personal experience that the general public has a favorable outlook on traditional archery hunting over any other type. It seems easier for people to accept hunting as a means of preserving our human heritage when they see hunters using a weapon that is similar to what humans have been using as the primary hunting tool for the longest period of time throughout human history. Most non-hunting individuals will recognize the image of a traditional bow and know that it is part of human history. Even individuals that I have talked to who are anti-hunting seem much more tolerant of the idea of a hunter pursuing game with a traditional bow. Due to the short range and quiet nature of traditional archery this is an option that will be more tolerated near more densely populated areas. There are already existing archery-only areas scattered throughout the state in populated areas and townships etc. because of the higher public

tolerance towards archery equipment. I believe the emphasis on using traditional archery equipment to help preserve our ancient hunting heritage could be a huge PR boost that could help improve optics and draw conservation support from the non-hunting public. Something like this would be very effective to serve as the "face" of PR efforts that are directed to the non-hunting public (even though all legal forms of hunting are critical in preserving our hunting heritage). It is the way our ancestors have been hunting for thousands of years on almost every continent in the world. It is likely that everyone alive today has ancestors who have a rich history involving some form of traditional archery equipment. Traditional Archery is indisputably a deeply rooted part of human history that has value in being preserved for both hunters and non-hunters alike.

There are more reasons why I see value in adding Traditional Archery into our state's management plan but in summary, I believe integrating Traditional Archery as a specific part of Utah's hunting management plan could be a powerful asset to all hunters and individuals interested in conservation. For those willing to take on the challenge this could be the option that gives hunters the impossible thing we all demand: Increased opportunity, increased season dates, increased draw odds, better quality hunt and all without damaging the resource. I believe that drawing all able hunters into the category of traditional archery will be the best way to allow for maximum hunter participation across all categories long into the future. On a broader scale I believe that having traditional archery specifically integrated in our hunting and conservation plans will serve as a powerful long term protection for our hunting heritage, benefiting all hunters.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 31, 2022 10:24 pm

**Which best describes your position** Strongly agree  
**regarding the proposed statewide elk**  
**management plan?**

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

The Division was kind enough to allow me to sit in on some of the Elk Committee meetings. I appreciated the chance to see how the process works. I don't necessarily like everything in the draft elk plan, but on the whole, it's a plan I can support. There are just a few things that I want to make known or present to the RAC for consideration. I've listed them below.

I strongly support the acquisition of land by the Division, for the benefit of elk and the public, from willing sellers, and I have to believe that a majority of the public does as well. I mention this specifically because I'm not sure whether certain individuals on the wildlife board support it. I would hope that the RACs could bring a strong recommendation to the board in favor of that habitat strategy.

I support the changes proposed to expand general season elk hunting opportunities. I think they're needed and worthwhile.

I don't think first-come first-served is going to be a viable long-term solution to sell multi-season general elk tags, especially with their numbers capped as proposed. I expect demand for multi-season any bull tags, in particular, to shoot way up because rifle hunters who want to hunt two weeks instead of one will start going after them.

I think it is worth considering an "unlimited two-season" general any bull tag that would allow a hunter to hunt both the general archery hunt and the late general rifle hunt. These hunts both have an unlimited quota, so why not?

I strongly support making the general archery hunt bull only. I think it's fair to make archery hunters spend their points on antlerless tags like everyone else has to.

I do not support what essentially appears to be stealing four days from the early LE rifle hunt and giving it to the LE archery hunt. It seems a bit disingenuous to say that our goal is to increase opportunity by increased challenge, and then make a change that, in all likelihood, will make the archery hunt easier and lead to higher success rates. I'd rather see the timeframe on the archery hunt stay as-is.

I strongly support restructuring the age objectives as proposed. I think that's the single biggest key to increasing opportunity, yet great quality will still exist under any of the age objectives.

I don't understand why the Book Cliffs Roadless hunt has an age objective higher than the rest of the Book Cliffs unit. It's the same herd of elk. Why not make them consistent?

I don't see why we shouldn't let multi-season LE tag holders hunt the December archery season. My guess is that 95% will have harvested by then and won't be able to hunt it anyway. For the remaining 5%, why not let

them have one last chance? Crowding shouldn't be an issue with such low tag numbers.

I support the principles behind the "adaptive" LE hunt strategies and the additional HAMS/restricted weapon hunts. It seems like there are a few good ideas on the table. Why wait? Is there any reason none of these types of hunts were proposed for 2023?

Thanks to everyone on the Committee, at the Division, and on the RACs/Board for all your good work and sacrifice. I'm very happy with what I'm seeing and hope the spirit of the plan will be maintained as final changes are discussed.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?** I agree with the proposed changes to the goat hunts. I don't support archery-only hunts for once in a lifetime species if they don't ultimately result in more hunter opportunity. I hope the Division will continually evaluate archery once in a lifetime hunts and only recommend them when that intent can be met.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** As proposed, 3 of the days in the early rifle deer hunt would occur in one general any bull elk season and two would occur in the other. I'm not sure people will like that - it's not very clean/neat and only provides a few days of overlap. Was this considered as a consequence of splitting the any bull elk hunt in two? It might be worth extending the early rifle deer hunt to 9 days, so there's at least 4 days of overlap in either season.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** I'm glad the Division is attempting to stay on top of technology issues. I support adding restricted weapon definitions so that they can be used later as needed.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I disagree with changing the archery to bull only. I would suggest it remain as it is and additionally require hunters to participate in a harvest survey each year regardless of the hunt to provide feedback yearly on harvests, etc. so that the elk harvest/success numbers can be identified. I do not feel archery hunters have had a large/negative impact on the elk numbers by having the option to harvest either sex.

I also disagree with changing the antlerless elk to only be hunted during the season dates for that tag. If antlerless permits are truly issued according to the appropriate number for the hunt and area, it should not matter which hunting season they are harvested in by the hunter. (Ex. if that permit holder has a muzzleloader antlerless tag but harvests his/her antlerless animal during a prior respective season within the boundaries of that tag, it should be considered the same as the antlerless animal being harvested during the specific season dates on the tag) which to my understanding the number of tags issued are based on objective goals/numbers for elk in that specific area. Again requiring hunters to report this information in harvest surveys after each hunt will provide the information needed to plan for the future. (could even require specific information such as the exact season the antlerless animal was harvested)

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** I was one who was took part during the survey. with longer time to think about. I am in favor for a general season draw. Some of us can't wait of the phone for hours. and unable to wait in line at the license office for a general season elk tag. we have work obligations that prohibit this. I know the time has passed but that is what I believe now.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** As for time frame for hunts 7 days. I believe it should include two weekends. for general season elk

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** no 209 primers on muzzle loaders? I believe if you have a primitive hunt, homemade weapons', no metal on arrow or spear tips, no gortex or other water proof apparel, no rubber soles on shoes ect. only walk to your hunting location no modern vehicles/ saddles or other modern device made in the last two century's. We are making allowances for a small group of people and leaving out the general populations.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** I am always against giving private land owners more opportunity than the general population to hunt. we should not allow them to sell our public animals for profit. make it illegal for them to due so. if animals are on your land bothering you allow the general hunting public to come in and help take care of that issue. not attract animals and sell your given tags for profit. until you give the public access to help take care of your animal problem no land owner tags will be given to you. giving access of public lands so land owner can have there own cwmu is a joke. if they don't have the land they are unable to qualify for a cwmu. give the public access to public lands not block off public land to help a few.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 1, 2022 7:49 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I think that the Muzzleloader Hunt should be a Primitive Hunt. The modern Muzzleloaders are anything but primitive.  
I would Like to see the Muzzleloader Hunt Return to what is was originally when it first came out. Or have a Separate season for Primitive non inline Muzzleloaders

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I would prefer you not drop the age class of elk. During the presentation the word opportunity = Money. I oppose adding opportunity when you don't have enough of the resources to provide an opportunity.

I am ok with the new units.

I am glad to see the dates on the cow tags will be the season they can hunt as well as the archery will be bull only. This is a good change.

We need to grow the resource before you can increase permit numbers on any hunt. You may be able to utilize some of your limited technology hunting to provide more opportunity, this makes sense to me. It has to be more challenging to reduce harvest.

If you are going to change season dates, I feel archery season dates need to be reduced as well. The archery season is too long as is and could use a reduction to stay fair with ALW hunters.

I would change it from a 10 years plan, to a 5 year plan with the option to make adjustments as needed.

Please keep improving the predator plan, I feel this helps drastically with the calf crop as well as deer. Coyotes are lousy, we need to promote more coyote hunting as well.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?**

I hope you don't just add tags for goats to the Beaver as it was made to seem during the presentation.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

I would like to see a fair reduction in the archery hunts to be equal to the reduces ALW hunt dates.

I completely oppose the antlerless hunt in the spring. This is basically killing 2 elk per cow taken, they should mostly have calves in them at this time. Also, they have way too much hunting pressure already.

The way to give more "opportunity" is to increase the population, not just make more hunts.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

Definitely headed in the right direction. Additionally I think Outfitters and Guides need to be more closely regulated.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Tag numbers should be equal for private tags vs public tags for both bucks and bulls and season dates should be the same as the dates for public units.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I disagree with the multi season tags and the split general season. The solution to solving the computer backup is not to give even less tags. Splitting the season cuts hunter opportunity to hunt because it gives less days in the season. The limited entry proposals seem good for ages. Carving out a general season unit in the middle of a limited entry unit seems fishy. Who owns land on the Moroni area that gets to hunt limited entry bulls every year? 5 day season for limited entry is too short. Archery bull only is good. Longer archery season at the expense of other hunters is bad.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?**

There should be no archery once in a lifetime tags. The success rates are the same and the draw odds are better.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

The split season general elk is not good. The split season also splits the middle deer hunt.

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

There is a technology committee and the recommendation is to not restrict technology on the existing hunts. Who comes up with this stuff? They should restrict scopes on muzzle loaders and scopes that communicate with other devices.

**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

I think it is a good program that needs more oversight and tags should be raised or lowered instead of not changing much over the years.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 1, 2022 12:04 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I don't agree with no longer allowing the holder of an antlerless cow tag to not be able to harvest the cow during the general season spike or any bull season if said cow tag is in the same unit. If the goal is to control elk numbers by issuing cow tags, then why not keep this opportunity to increase the success rate for that unit. I also do not agree with making the Oquirrh-Stansbury unit a general any bull unit.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 1, 2022 1:45 pm

**Which best describes your position**      Somewhat agree  
**regarding the CWMU and LOA**  
**recommendations?**

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**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Likes:

1. I love the idea of creating more opportunity for branch antlered bull hunting by making the six new units open bull, however to be candid, are we creating a new problem by doing this? Why not just leave some of the better units (Nebo in particular as a draw tag and increase tag numbers to create the opportunities? For the most part though, I love that the state is looking to create more opportunity for hunters to hunt branch antlered bulls.
2. I like the idea of splitting general rifle tags into two seasons. I also like the new proposed season dates. One slight disagreement, let the gun hunters hunt LE in October. Let archery hunters hunt the majority of Sept (which you have proposed) on their LE tags.
3. I like the capping of multi-season tags
4. I like the thought of adding a mid-season to the LE tags....again more opportunities to eliminate point creep
5. I love the general idea of getting more opportunity to hunt branch antlered bulls....this feels like we are beginning to migrate to this idea.
5. I like the additives on the Youth tag options, they should be allowed extra opportunity for mentorship and development.

Dislikes/Disagree with:

1. I disagree with not allowing archery hunters to take either sex on the spike only units. All of the research I've read suggests archers don't have significant impact on our herds in this regard. Why remove hunting opportunity from archery hunters with that equipment? They should be allowed to take either sex. Why have a special antlerless archery season as outlined? This complicates issues.
2. The December LE elk hunt for archery? Do we really think anyone is even going to choose this option. It seems ridiculous to me and we are targeting the herd at their weakest point of the hunting season. I'm all for creating more opportunity for elk hunters but I don't think this late hunt is the option. Seems to be more of just an extra add on to appease the situation that won't have much if any effect on change.
- 3: I strongly disagree with the HAMS hunt in general. Based on what I've seen from most hunters in the field, I can't think of a better way to wound a bunch of elk. Taking away modern technology and efficacy to create more opportunity seems silly. Let's do this right and not create a bigger issue of a bunch of wounded animals. Elk are tough critters, a hunter needs the modern advances to best likely harvest in an ethical manner.
4. I strongly disagree with eliminating the option to harvest an antlerless animal during any season you have a tag and can be hunting. These tags are allotted by numbers and objectives, why are we straying from that principle? We issue cow tags to keep numbers in check. Let hunters harvest when they can harvest.

I have hunted elk in this state for 30 years now (mostly bowhunting) and consider myself to be more successful than most. I have had the

opportunity to take several spikes and cows during this time period and have only had a LE tag once, (archery tag) The waiting period and lack of opportunities definitely has me concerned. I love that the division is willing to look into this issue to make it better. I just think that some of the measures outlined in this new plan will not have the desired outcome and revolve more around a better perceived look, rather than producing tangible results. Some of the new measures I think will actually be quite damaging, such as the HAM hunt. I just haven't seen the level of responsibility across the board with most hunters to compliment this idea.

Thank you for the time and effort you put into proposing these new management plans/ideas.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 1, 2022 3:20 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I have hunted with traditional blackpowder muzzleloaders since the hunt in 1976 on the Boulder unit. I have hunted with Flintlock only for the last 20 years. With the current muzzleloading season, I am very much at a disadvantage when trying to hunt. I strongly agree with the proposal for primitive weapon regulations and urge the RAC's and the Wildlife Board to implement primitive hunt areas this coming season. I would further suggest that the late Muzzleloader season in November be restricted to Primitive muzzleloaders only. Two exceptional areas for primitive weapons would be the Boulder Plateau unit and the Pinevalley unit in the SW corner of the state. Urge you to approve the primitive proposals and implement them in as many areas as possible. Jim McConnell, Cedar City Utah.  
harley.jmc@gmail.com

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I would like to better understand the driving factors behind changing the general season archery permits to bull only.

This change is very disappointing, and probably to only portion that I strongly disagree with. Would the archery antlerless permits use our antlerless points? Is the intent to help control point creep in the antlerless pools or are you simply looking to sell another tag? If the intent is to help control point creep then I could support the approach. If you are simply looking to sell another tag without utilizing points then I strongly disagree. I similarly am sad to see the flexibility of using antlerless tags go away, but I do see how this could help to issue more tags, and control point creep in those areas. I think it would be helpful to more clearly explain the intent to the public.

I support the age adjustments and push to help move hunters through the limited entry point pools. I also like the multi season opportunity presented for youth.

Thank you for your efforts here.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 1, 2022 5:48 pm

**Which best describes your position** Strongly disagree  
**regarding the proposed statewide elk**  
**management plan?**

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I agree that the demand for more opportunities in Utah for elk hunting has increased dramatically over the last 10-years. Increasing the allotment of tags and opening new hunting areas and timeframes for hunters is the best way to maximize opportunity for our growing state. I agree that changes need to be made but I do not think the proposal and current model maximizes the opportunity for tags to be utilized at the appropriate times. Managing an elk herd should be done in a way to maximize the growth and health of the upcoming generation, since elk herds are only as good by the calves that can replace them. The current hunt structure and the proposed changes put excessive pressure on the herds during actual breeding/conception, potentially delaying conception and leading to smaller, less healthy mothers and calves the following year. Which would have detrimental effects on the herds over multiple years.

It all comes down to these few points.

Peak "rut" is not peak breeding time.

The elk conception window is far later in the season than most people realize.

The breeding windows for cow elk are extremely narrow and can easily be missed.

Missing the breeding window will cause cow elk (which are seasonally polyestrous cyclers) to cycle again later in the year.

Later cycling causes calves to continue nursing late into the fall.

If cows nurse later, it will affect their ability to have "normal cycles".

Studies have shown that elk will not cycle if the cows have inadequate nutrition weight or increased stress.

The current proposal puts excessive pressure on elk herds when a majority of elk are breeding.

It is my professional opinion and from the data I have collected that the new proposal would not yield the results many think it would. If we want to maximize opportunities and success rate while managing general and trophy units, we need to look at the science behind breeding.

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**Which best describes your position  
regarding the proposed hunting  
seasons and dates?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

I agree that the demand for more opportunities in Utah for elk hunting has increased dramatically over the last 10-years. Increasing the allotment of tags and opening new hunting areas and timeframes for hunters is the best way to maximize opportunity for our growing state. I agree that changes need to be made but I do not think the proposal and current model maximizes the opportunity for tags to be utilized at the appropriate times. Managing an elk herd should be done in a way to maximize the growth and health of the upcoming generation, since elk herds are only as good by the calves that can replace them. The current hunt structure and the proposed changes put excessive pressure on the herds during actual breeding/conception, potentially delaying conception and leading to smaller, less healthy mothers and calves the following year. Which would have detrimental effects on the herds over multiple years.

It all comes down to these few points.

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The current proposal puts excessive pressure on elk herds when a majority of elk are breeding.

It is my professional opinion and from the data I have collected that the new proposal would not yield the results many think it would. If we want to maximize opportunities and success rate while managing general and trophy units, we need to look at the science behind breeding.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

There are some great elements in this proposed plan (season date shifts, migration data, expanding youth opportunities, removing either sex tags on general season hunts, and others).

I do have some concerns about opening up some limited entry units to general season specifically the Deep Creeks, Anthro, and Pauns. These units are tough limited units but each hold elk and can be drawn in relatively few years especially with the HAMS and Sept. archery hunts. I'd rather wait a few years to hunt those units as a limited entry tag and not see many people than see potentially an unlimited amount of people chasing the few spikes and raghorns on a late general season tag. You can't have a hunt with an unlimited tag quota (late rifle hunt) and expect to have enough resources (bulls) to support that model. I annually hunt on an any bull on unit that used to be a limited entry hunt. It took 2 years for that herd to be reduced from a few nice bulls to raghorns and spikes. Now it is virtually a 'let's see some cow elk and maybe a spike hunt' because of too many people hunting the unit and only spikes being available. My family has personally hunted this unit for well over two decades and notched many tags over the years so I do have a really good feel for the place. This will be the case with those limited entry units. The other proposed areas (Moroni Hills, Valley Mtns, Sawtooth, etc.) make sense to go general season from my experiences on those units.

My other major concern is the unlimited rifle hunt. This is simply a bad idea that will further reduce opportunities to actually harvest an elk. Yes, a person could get a tag annually but very few bulls will be available. I could support that hunt if it was a restricted weapon tag (no scopes on rifles or muzzys). I also like breaking the 13 day hunt into two hunts.

Other than those two concerns, the plan is pretty solid.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals?**

Looks good to me!

Glad to see a new bighorn hunt on the Minerals!

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Please see my comments about the elk plan for my thoughts on the new any bull proposals. If not for some of those recommendations, I'd probably rate my position higher.

I think the creativity in the season dates and hunt options for limited entry elk (mid season rifle, late archery) are awesome! Why not keep the Deep Creeks, Pauns, and Anthro as limited entry with that model and up the tag numbers!? That will help with point creep even more and still provide more opportunities to hunt mature bulls. Or increase tag numbers on the HAMs/Sept. archery hunts on those units.

One thought on point creep for limited entry deer. Why not issue a limited multi season tag (archery, Muzzy, rifle) tag on general season units? That would pull quite a few hunters out of the pool. I hunt bucks each year on my general tag that I'd be happy to tag on all but a couple limited entry units. Even if it was only 5-10 per unit that adds up over time.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

Technology is constantly changing and it has caught up to the hunting industry. I can support most of what the committee discussed/decided. I do think something needs to be done in regards to long range rifles, muzzleloaders, bows. When someone can hit an animal with a muzzleloader at long range (over 200 yards), rifle (over 500 yards), or bow (over 60 yards) that is something that needs serious consideration.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 2, 2022 5:22 am

**Which best describes your position** Strongly disagree  
**regarding the proposed statewide elk**  
**management plan?**

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

The biggest opposition I have is in regards to eliminating either sex archery tags. Claiming to removing pressure off elk for better distribution and longer lasting resource is grossly over Exaggerated. Plaving blame on archery hunters as if we harvest so many elk, when the reality of our harvest percentage is the lowest among every single hunt the Division offers. Eliminating the either sex tag does NOT help increase herds nor increase opportunities, requiring archery hunters now to have both tags only puts MORE MONEY in the Divisions pocket. I challenge anyone to go look up the harvest statistics on successful archery permit holders. Spike harvest is near impossible in this state. The whole reason to offer archery hunters either sex tags was because pushing spike bull tag only is like selling unicorn tags, knowing full well its merely a revenue based way to deceive the public thinking they have an opportunity to fill their tag. Why attack archery hunters?? We are literally the least impactful on Animal pressure. We have the lowest success rates and the absolute worst season dates compared to every wester state offering big game hunting.

Here is my prime example of why I hope you would reconsider this proposal. My father is 65. Still waiting to draw his once in a lifetime bull tag here in the state. Because of point creep he will never draw another bull tag before he dies. Thats the cold truth. Our only other potential successful opportunity to hunt elk is with the option of cow permits. Now he currently sits at 5 points on a cow permit. This permit not more than 3 years ago, used to be able to draw every other year or two. Now turning into a tag that is slowly creeping into the same unattainable once in a lifetime tag. With this problem facing his elk hunting opportunity, we prepared him from rifle hunting his whole life, to switch to archery. He has LOVED the thrill of stalking in and getting close and FINALLY getting the opportunity to harvest an elk. Spike or cow. He FINALLY had opportunity. And now your proposal is to make him pay for more tags and enter yet another draw system.

This proposal is nothing but disheartening, disappointing, and yet another show of distrust the public has in our division managers and board members. I have offered many sentiments, as many others have and it always goes unheard.

I hunted in Montana this year with exceptional opportunity, herd management and quality of bulls on a general season tag. As a non resident I paid over \$1200 for the tag. I spent another 3000 on travel expenses and giving money into the Montana economy and system. And to be completely honest, I will and would rather hunt and spend that much money as a non resident to hunt Montana now because of how poorly our state is managed. Maybe when the division starts losing enough revenue and resident hunters to other states with better management practices they will pull their head out of the sand. But it will be at the detriment of our wildlife herds and likely too late. Utah is the absolute laughing stock of western big game hunting. For residents and non residents Utah has written the book on how to treat hunters like garbage all while claiming we have the best herds and quality in the west. Which we have neither.

I ask you to PLEASE listen to the public. Prove us wrong that you actually care about the public sentiment rather than personal interests and generation of revenue.

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I assume that its safe to say that Archery is the fastest growing category in hunting. This makes since since its the only category that is truly scalable to meet hunter demand. I believe that the archery category has enough growth and momentum to introduce traditional archery as a specific category. I believe this is something that will benefit all hunters, help reduce point creep, and allow for scalable hunting opportunity growth without damaging the resource. Obviously hunters would initially complain about something like this, however it shouldn't take long for all hunters so see how this would benefit all hunting categories. If a highly incentivized traditional archery category was opened I believe that a significant portion of hunters under the archery umbrella would move into the traditional archery category. This would reduce point creep and increase draw odds for hunters who plan to hunt with a compound bow. This would be a category that would be scalable and could potentially draw many hunters over the years. Most likely these would be experienced hunters and not new hunters. As experienced hunters move into a more challenging category I believe it will allow for better hunting across the board. I can only see positive benefits across the board for all hunters and I also see this as being a powerful conservation tool that makes it clear that conserving our deeply rooted hunting heritage is a priority to Utah's management plan. Hunting with traditional archery is a practice that spans across almost all cultures and continents and has been carried through human history longer than almost any other practice or tradition. It is an absolutely critical part of human history that the non-hunting public can find value in preserving.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

This management plan is not even close to being called management. Season dates, changes, two different seasons/weeks. Having Unlimited permits for youth AND the second week is RIDICULOUS. I'd rather have a draw system than have UNLIMITED permits in any general season Elk hunt. So my recommendation would be keep giving 15,000 any bull and 15,000 spike only permits and 15,000 YOUTH permits for either spike or any bull. THOSE WHO "WANT" ELK PERMITS WILL GET IN LINE OR ONLINE TO PURCHASE THEIR PERMITS, THAT IS THEIR "OPPORTUNITY." UNLIMITED tag suggestion is ASININE!! KEEP THE SAME THING WE'VE BEEN DOING. It's not about opportunity, its about management and having elk to hunt. PLEASE DO NOT Change the General season elk seasons or have two different rifle weeks. OR unlimited tags PERIOD for youth OR second week. I hunted the full season for rifle any bull this year and there is not enough elk for your "OPPORTUNITY" recommendation. You will ruin the elk herds and wildlife and the landscape if you do so. PLEASE KEEP THE SAME SEASON DATED AND NUMBERS FOR GENERAL SPIKE AND GENERAL ANY BULL AND LOWER THE QUOTA FOR YOUTH TO 15,000 INSTEAD OF UNLIMITED.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

This management plan is not even close to being called management. Season dates, changes, two different seasons/weeks. Having Unlimited permits for youth AND the second week is RIDICULOUS. I'd rather have a draw system than have UNLIMITED permits in any general season Elk hunt. So my recommendation would be keep giving 15,000 any bull and 15,000 spike only permits and 15,000 YOUTH permits for either spike or any bull. THOSE WHO "WANT" ELK PERMITS WILL GET IN LINE OR ONLINE TO PURCHASE THEIR PERMITS, THAT IS THEIR "OPPORTUNITY." UNLIMITED tag suggestion is ASININE!! KEEP THE SAME THING WE'VE BEEN DOING. It's not about opportunity, its about management and having elk to hunt. PLEASE DO NOT Change the General season elk seasons or have two different rifle weeks. OR unlimited tags PERIOD for youth OR second week. I hunted the full season for rifle any bull this year and there is not enough elk for your "OPPORTUNITY" recommendation. You will ruin the elk herds and wildlife and the landscape if you do so. PLEASE KEEP THE SAME SEASON DATED AND NUMBERS FOR GENERAL SPIKE AND GENERAL ANY BULL AND LOWER THE QUOTA FOR YOUTH TO 15,000 INSTEAD OF UNLIMITED.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?** I applaud the Division, RAC, and Wildlife Board for their ongoing work. LE bull elk tags are very popular in Utah. The more tags that can be issued the better. I agree with less days for Early rifle LE bull elk hunts. Thank you for listening to the hunters that submitted feedback from the survey.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Good moves.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** Great planning ahead for the future.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Somewhat disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** You need to free up the trappers for predator control. Stop catering to the archery hunters, I do not agree with their longer hunting season. I do not agree with shortening the limited entry rifle elk hunt. People that wait for 20 years would like a chance at a decent bull, not just a 320 bull. I think we need to go back to statewide hunting . Your small units are not working. The hunting now is worse than it has ever been. You have let the predators get out of hand and you want the hunters to pay the price for it.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

Dear RAC Members,

I am writing these comments in opposition to the proposed changes to Administrative Rule R657-5 as recommended by the DWR Technology Committee.

First I would like to commend you and the DWR for creating the HAMS Elk Hunt on the Barney Top. I had the opportunity to participate in that hunt this year with a relative who drew the tag. It is a challenging area and a very challenging hunt which is awesome, and I think it is exactly what you had in mind when you created it. I also understand this hunt strategy was also intended to help reduce point creep for limited entry elk hunting.

In my opinion this hunt should remain the way it is with no further weapon restrictions for the following reasons.

- a. It is already a challenging enough hunt with the current restrictions. I would assume the success ratio is fairly low especially for a good bull.
- b. The current restrictions will be more effective in reducing point creep because the proposed restrictions cater to a very limited and select group of hunters. Those hunters could still hunt with those weapons on a HAMS hunt without an unfair advantage.
- c. The new restrictions could result in a greater number of wounded animals and possibly multiple wounded animals from a single hunter with the extended season dates.

The HAMS hunt with the current restrictions is a new hunt and recommend that you wait a few more years before you consider making further changes to such a new hunt.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to the RAC process. We are lucky to live in such a great State with so many hunting opportunities.

Sincerely,

Dave Black

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 4, 2022 12:54 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

As a bow Hunter I really like the adding of a bow hunt in December. I also really like the idea with the primitive weapons hunt, that could be a lot of fun. I think we should make the rifle hunt years time extended so that they can have the fun of hunting in the rut. Because ultimately the goal is to preserve our wildlife but also create good experiences for everyone.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 4, 2022 12:55 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

I feel the bow hunt should be restructured a little more or at least moved season times. I feel the rest is good like the new hunt dates and stuff like that.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I personally say leave the Elk alone in the Stansbury/Oquirrih Mtns. It's nice seeing some animals since there is no deer to be seen. I understand the arguments about opportunities but at what costs. Leave the spike hunt implemented as it is. If I can make 1 suggestion however minimize the atv/side by sides traffic. Make people have to actually hike in and that way you actually stand a chance of seeing game, it's called hunting not killing, contrary to road hunters beliefs. Make it a wilderness areas and actually Enforce it. That would be great to see for once. Thanks Paul Miller

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 4, 2022 12:55 pm

**Which best describes your position**      Somewhat agree  
**regarding the proposed hunting**  
**seasons and dates?**

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**Do you have any additional comments**      I think these dates are good.  
**about the proposed hunting seasons**  
**and dates?**

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 4, 2022 1:01 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

i feel like we should change anybull units so 4 point or bigger to better the quality of the hunt and for a chance for bigger bulls i also feel like we need to do 3 point or bigger on general season deer hunts with the exception of disabilities and hunter under the age of 16 just because of the amounts of two points that have been killed on the nebo unit becuae the one year olds will be able to learn how to survive past year one it would better the quality and it would make it so the people that actually wanna hunt will keep putting in for the unit.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

With the any bull unit I think it should be a 4 or bigger to shot. Then it will be more fun a desirable to get a any bull tag. It will also help with bigger bulls. Smaller bulls will get to live and grow bigger and that will allow for a better hunt.

The archery hunt should also be looked at again. I do not agree with a long archery season. While archery hunting is a hard and challenging hunt, riffle and muzzleloader are also hard. As a young hunter I'd like to have a few more days on riffle and muzzleloader. It would make the hunt more fun and allow for more tracking time and less of a hassle.

Pronghorn hunts also look to be a fun hunt. While I haven't been on one, I would love to go on one. The possibility of easier hunting and drawing opportunities are very interesting. They are interesting and could be a great way to harvest meat. I would like it if the possibility to draw out became higher for pronghorn.

In short, I think the riffle and muzzleloader hunters should not have to be kicked in the rear. The hunts should be even, and there are people who have been wanting to hunt a bull elk during the rut. I think they should get that opportunity. Easier accessibility to hunts would also be a great improvement and I would gladly support that.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 4, 2022 9:24 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

Leave the elk alone. People need to learn to go without once in a while. The reason elk are doing good is because they are not over hunted right now

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I believe the division has completely ruined all of the limited entry hunts for guys who have waited 10 to 20 years for the opportunity to finally draw a limited entry unit, now they have to contend with all the spike and cow hunters, we have completely disregarded any thoughts of a quality hunt seems like our only focus now is on opportunity, there is no reason all spike & cow hunts cant be held during the any bull season or start first of November or both, this would reduce the pressure during the limited entry hunts and bring back a quality hunt, also not sure how you can justify opening the any bull hunt on the Oquirrh Stansbury & Deep creek units with the populations of elk on these units at this time unless the plan is to elimiate these 2 Heards altogether because that is what will happen with the amount of hunters in the SLC & Tooele areas that are so close to these 2 units.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?** We do not need more PERMITS put out. The mountain ranges are already ran dry and trampled by everyone going. 17,500 adult open bull tags is way more than plenty. I think the 14 day open bull rifle hunt would be better than two sections for fairness and opportunity. And for the archery bull only change. I feel that is going to push hunters away more so for that hunt because with the any elk rule it was more drawing to hunt it for the hope for seeing either or. And creating two separate hunts for basically what right now is 1 hunt is pointless. Just for more people to pay money.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Neither agree nor disagree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 5, 2022 9:58 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

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Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Please pass the technology committee's proposal as presented by the division! It is a win-win! It preserves opportunities for hunters to use their modern gear while creating situations for primitive weapon use. If I were to make an amendment, I would define muzzleloaders as, "Only capable to be loaded from the muzzle, firing a patched round ball with loose powder by means of an external, side mounted ignition system".

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 5, 2022 11:27 am

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 6, 2022 8:05 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

Make general season elk permits a draw only hunt. Otherwise I'm going to continue not elk hunting thanks to overcrowding and lack of opportunity to harvest. Have a care for the animals less care for takin our money.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

My biggest issue with the plan is keeping the 3 season general season elk tags in the future plan. Part of the ideal hunting experience is to avoid crowds while seeing lots of animals. Since the inclusion of the 3 season general season tags, the amount of hunters seen in the hunting areas has increased dramatically. Since we do not limit the hunters to specific smaller areas like we do on the deer hunt, hunters congregate to the areas that also hold the most elk. I have never seen so many people on the muzzleloader spike hunt on the fish lake unit since the inclusion of these tags. People want opportunities but people also want some exclusivity as well. The 3 season tags gives more opportunity of success but does nothing to solve the overcrowding of people into high elk areas. It makes it worse. If revenue loss of getting rid of all 3 season general season elk tags is a big deal, then charge more for a general season tag to recoup that loss. Resident hunters already have cheap tag costs and we should not rely on non-residents to shoulder that revenue burden like other states do. Overcrowding is the biggest disappointment factor when I ask anyone how their hunt is going and what they are seeing. I am asking that you remove this from the proposal or drop the number severely lower than what is currently being proposed.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I strongly disagree with the following changes to any bull any legal weapon elk hunt. #1 making the any bull elk hunt that is currently a single hunt of 13 days into two separate hunts only 7 days long. #2 give out 15k tags for the first hunt in the first week. #3 give unlimited tags to the second hunt in the second week.

Here are my reasons to leave any bull elk any legal weapon hunt alone. First, this huge demand increase is a result of COVID as Dax Mangus mentioned in the presentation, in the past it took a couple months and now it takes hours to sell out of all elk tags. This is not a long term demand and we should not be drastically changing the elk hunts and Utah's elk strategy around this. Second, there are already too many people. Up by flaming gorge where I hunt you are required to drop your trailer before the hunt starts otherwise you are camping on the road. The proposed changes will make this much worse. Third, this hunt already has a very low success rate. In the Big Game Annual Report of 2020 under "Statewide elk harvest statistics, Utah 19761-2020" in 2020 only 4214 bull elk were taken in the general season harvest and there were 40102 hunters afield which is only a 10.5% success rate. Adding unlimited tags will only decrease the success rate in this hunt. Fourth, with 15k tags in the first hunt and unlimited tags in the second hunt we are increasing stress and pressure on the elk which I think will ultimately start the decline of our elk herd populations due to the thousands of hunters and elk not having safe places to rest except on private land. Then elk hunting will really be in a pickle when the herd numbers decline. Fifth, I believe there will be more conflicts with private landowners as there are no safe spots for the elk and well meaning elk hunters will take a not so good shot at an elk near the private/public boundaries and the wounded elk crosses over into private land.

Elk and other animals are a resource to be used and taken care of but it is a limited resource. Therefore, I object to any and all hunts where there are an unlimited number of tags that treat elk as an unlimited resource. The great American bison were once treated as an unlimited resource and as such were almost extinct. Let's make sure history does not repeat itself.

Please do not go forward with the changes to the any bull any weapon elk hunt. I do acknowledge there is more demand for elk hunting, though I think it's only temporary and short term and to solve this I would suggest we make the elk hunts where hunters are only eligible to do an elk hunt every 2 years. This will protect our elk more and still gives opportunity to all those who want to elk hunt every other year.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I am concerned with the proposed elk management plan for the following reasons.

1. Splitting the hunt into two one week hunts makes it so there is a shorted hunt period to participate in elk hunting.
2. By drastically increasing the number of elk tags (for the first week) will make the public hunting areas even more crowded and difficult to find camping spots let alone hunting spots.
3. By creating an unlimited number of elk tags (for the second week) will do nothing more than continue to decrease the elk herds and continue to make elk hunts, beginning next season and forward, even more difficult.

I don't believe that we need to make the general elk hunt as difficult to obtain a tag as our limited entry hunts, but I do have great concern in drastically increasing the general elk tag amounts. I say this as a relatively new hunter (5ish years) that has low hopes of actually acquiring enough limited entry points to participate in limited entry elk hunts, and wish to still have at least a chance of being successful in both participating in each general season elk hunt annually and being successful in harvesting an elk for myself occasionally.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

Shortening the early limited entry rifle elk hunt is another good proposal. That hunt has such a high success rate that it can't be sustainable. I like the proposal to lengthen the limited entry archery elk hunt, but I think you should make it even longer. It is very unfortunate that the archery hunt misses most of the good rut action. Every other states archery season goes all the way to the end of September. But lengthening the archery elk season is always great. One thing I disagree with is having unlimited rifle tags for the late general rifle hunt. I think there will be way to many people out hunting. Even though it will be a very hard hunt, a lot of elk are going to get killed just because of how many people are going to be out in the woods. I think that change should be on a trial basis and if a lot of elk get killed it needs to be shut down immediately.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?**

Strongly agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I really like the proposals for restricted weapon seasons. That is a very good way to combat point creep and give more hunters opportunity. Hunting needs to be a little harder if more people are going to hunt.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

Overall i can support your plan. i see why you have made the decisions you have but i just want to express my concerns. It seems in past meetings that it was mentioned the multi season tags have helped dramatically in creating the higher demand for tags. If this is case i think they need to be limited even more. If we are trying to give everyone more opportunities to hunt why give a few people multiple seasons when some people don't get any. i would think it would be best to either get rid of the multi season or cut the number down substantially and put it into a draw system. My other thought would be on some of the the any bull units i think it would be worth trying to make them a HAMS hunt. This would allow more hunters to be out, yes success rate would be lower but i think hunters would start to see more bulls on those units and love to hunt them. Something has to be done with technology the animals just don't stand a chance. You are recommending opening the valley mountains to an any bull hunt. I know that area extremely well and by adding that area to the any bull hunt you are only adding about 3 bull elk for the general public to hunt. Yes there are some in cornfields and there are a few that occasionally cross over from the Pavahnt but on most years there are 2-4 bulls that roam those hills. If you allow the current technology to be used those 2-4 bulls will be dead the first year. After that there may be 1 spike a year you have added for people to hunt with an any bull tag. If we can restrict the weapons maybe 1 or 2 of those bulls survive each year and there can be few bulls to chase. I know you want to provide people an opportunity to get a tag and go hunting with their families but people want animals to hunt not just a tag. I can go camping with guns any time I want. I want to take my kids out knowing there will be animals for them to see and chase. Long range weapons need to go. You said in your plan you are willing to make some changes on units to see what happens i think doing some units with restricted weapons would be great place to start.

**Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?**

I agree with what you did for the HAMS Hunt. I think that will be a great a hunt and allow some animal to survive. i just don't feel we are going far enough on the technology side of things for the regular hunts. People are just slaughtering what few deer there are at long ranges. Muzzle loaders are shooting deer at 800+ yards. Why do we even have a separate muzzle loader hunt, It should just be included as part of the rifle hunt if we are going to allow that type of technology. We need to restrict scope size or something to help limit that. If we are trying to make more opportunities for people to hunt then in my opinion we need to limit the success rate. This would be one of the best ways. I just keep hearing story after story of deer and elk being shot at 700 to 1000 yards if you were to take away this technology a good percentage of those animals would have lived. At that distance animals can't use any of their natural instincts to survive. The hunters can yell, scream and smell like death and the animals would have no clue what was going. The fish and game might as well go put out paper targets of deer and elk for the long range shooters cause there is no difference in shooting a paper deer or real deer at that distance. Then they can save the animals for those that actually wan to hunt.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 6, 2022 9:55 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?**

I think the Deer Creeks and Anthro should stay as limited entry units. I think we should manage for older age class bulls, the wasatch is a great example of being over hunted and having mostly 320 bulls. I think the rifle should stay a full week, they are waiting that long to draw a tag and you want to cut their time? I think you should really look at giving max point holders more tags.